

Application No. 09/743,023
Amendment Dated November 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the addition is performed directly after fermentation.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 21, wherein pH of the ~~cells~~ cell concentrate after the addition of the metal salt is equal to or lower than pH 6.8.
6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the metal salt is potassium or sodium salt.
7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 6, in which the salt is potassium or sodium phosphate or acetate.
- 8.-10. (Canceled).
11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the metal salt is an alkali metal salt or an alkali earth metal salt.
12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, wherein the peptide is human growth hormone.
13. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the addition is performed directly after fermentation.

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14. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the metal salt is an alkali metal salt or an alkali earth metal salt.
15. (Canceled).
16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the metal salt is potassium or sodium salt.
17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 16 in which the salt is potassium or sodium phosphate or acetate.
- 18.-20. (Cancelled).
21. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of recombinant growth hormone, comprising fermenting cells to produce recombinant growth hormone, wherein a metal salt is added to a concentrate of the fermented cells ~~during or~~ after the fermentation step, prior to growth hormone isolation, and wherein the pH of the ~~cells~~ cell concentrate after the addition of the metal salt is less than or equal to 7, thereby reducing the amount of trisulfides formed in the production of the growth hormone, with the proviso that the production does not include conversion of formed trisulfide growth hormone into native growth hormone form a peptide-refolding step after the addition of the metal salt.
22. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of recombinant peptides, comprising fermenting cells to produce recombinant peptides, wherein a metal salt is added to a concentrate of the fermented cells ~~during or~~ after the fermentation step, prior to peptide isolation, and wherein the pH of the ~~cells~~ cell concentrate after the addition of the metal salt is less than or equal to 7, thereby reducing the amount of trisulfides formed in the production of the recombinant peptide, with the proviso that the production does not include conversion of formed trisulfide peptide into native peptide form a peptide-refolding step after the addition of the metal salt.

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23. (New) Method according to claim 22, wherein pH of the cell concentrate after the addition of the metal salt is equal to or lower than pH 6.8.